

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
September 14, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
 COUNCIL MEMBER JASON R. BURTO
 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
 MAYOR GRAHAM

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU

Mayor Graham opened the adjourned session and combined work session.

The following resolutions were presented to Council:

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that Stephen W. Gebo, 155 Paddock Street, Watertown, New York, is hereby appointed to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Bradley, which term expires on December 31, 2009.

**SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR. AND CARRIED
WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, SECONDED BY
COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR
THEREOF**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for labor and materials to slip line approximately 1100 linear feet of the North Side Trunk Sewer located in the channel of Kelsey Creek, per our specifications, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were issued to five (5) prospective bidders with five (5) bids received and publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Agent Robert J. Cleaver and Ike Cook of Bernier Carr and Associates reviewed the bids received, and it is their recommendation that the City Council

accept the bid submitted by Bat-Con, Inc., 4277 Slate Hill Road, Marcellus, New York 13108, in the amount of \$339,785.00 as the lowest qualifying bid meeting the City's specifications, and

WHEREAS funding to support this project is contained in the FY 2009-10 Capital Budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York accepts the bid for the labor and materials to line approximately 1100 linear feet of the North Side Trunk Sewer located in the channel of Kelsey Creek from Bat-Con, Inc. in the amount of \$339,785.00 as the lowest bidder meeting City specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said bid acceptance is contingent on the City Council's approval of the bond ordinance to support this project.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR. AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler asked questions concerning the bonding that would be used to pay for the project. He also asked about the amount that is earmarked for the project in the capital budget versus the amount that the bid came in at.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the City will not borrow the whole \$722,000. The bond ordinance is for \$415,000. She explained that the difference in the cost is based on the fact that the decision was made to go with the slip lining instead of taking the pipe out.

Council Member Butler remarked that he thought the slip lining was the intent from the start.

Mr. Hauk, City Engineer, explained that they started out thinking that slip lining was the way to go. However, then information was received that made them think that it might not be a good idea. Bernier Carr was brought on board to do the design work. The City spoke with vendors and it was determined that the project was a good candidate for the slip lining. However, the amount in the budget was never amended.

Council Member Butler asked what the interest rate for borrowing would be.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that it she wouldn't know that until spring time.

Council Member Butler remarked that we have money set aside in fund balance making less than 1 1/2%. He suggested using that money to fund the project.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the fund balance for the sewer fund is much smaller than the one in the general fund.

Council Member Butler remarked that borrowing costs will be much higher and questioned why the money couldn't be taken from the fund balance since it isn't making money.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that it doesn't mean that over 25 years, it won't make more money than we borrow.

Mayor Graham suggested moving some of the money from the fund balance in the general fund to the sewer fund.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that a temporary loan such as that can only be for one year. She also advised that in the 2007-08 budget the fund balance in the sewer fund was \$331,364. She did not have the figures for the balance at this time. She remarked that she wasn't sure if there was \$400,000 in the fund and she wasn't sure it would be prudent to take the money from there.

Council Member Butler remarked that perhaps it could be funded by bonding half of the project and taking money from the fund for the other half.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that she and Mr. Mills will look at the capacity to pay down as opposed to bonding beforehand.

Council Member Butler asked about the bonding expenses and \$8,350.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that this amount also includes contingency funds for the project.

Council Member Butler responded that it is a small amount for contingencies in such a large project.

Council Member Butler remarked that the credit market is so tight that the rate of borrowing is going up.

Mayor Graham explained that the bond ordinance for this project can not come before Council tonight as unanimous consent could not be achieved since Council Member Smith is not present.

Council Member Butler advised that he would like answers to a few specific questions before voting on the bonding. He also remarked that he is not 100% in favor of a bond ordinance for the project.

PRESENTATIONS

Park Signage Update

Mrs. Hoffman, City Planner, presented the Park Signage Update to the Council. She explained that the signs were designed by Infinite Media. DPW will be installing them. The small trademarks and insignias on the signs indicate where the funding came from for each of the

parks. She also showed Council a sample of the wayfinding signs. She explained that the DOT regulations were more like guidelines and the sample was designed by DOT personnel in Albany. The signs incorporate the City's branding logo. City staff will continue to work with them to get the signs a little smaller. The signs will be all over the City. In addition, there will also be entry signs to the City. Mrs. Hoffman advised that DOT has agreed to let the City take down the green signage. The wayfinding signs will be done in-house by the DPW sign crew and will be installed in-house, except on Arsenal Street and Route 3.

Mrs. Hoffman advised that cost estimate for the interpretive signs came in under \$20,000 for design and construction. The installation could be done in-house. She suggested that perhaps tourism funds could be used to fund them.

Mayor Graham remarked that it would make sense as that is what the money is there for.

Mayor Graham asked about the signs in the parks being in plaque style which would hold up.

Mrs. Hoffman explained that the signs being looked at would be three-sided and would have pictures on them and would hold up for 20 years.

Mayor Graham asked about the paw prints on pavement.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she had spoken with Mr. Hayes and he indicated that this is something that can be done. However, it must also be maintained.

Mayor Graham responded that we also need concurrence from the zoo.

Council Member Burns explained that she had mentioned it, very briefly, to Dr. Foster and he seemed agreeable to the idea. More discussion will be needed, however.

Tables & Chairs, Whitewater Park

Mr. Mix, Planning & Community Development Coordinator, showed Council the different types of tables and benches available for the deck on Newell Street. He explained the various types of materials used for them. He commented that staff didn't advise separate tables and chairs as they can't be fastened down and they would have to be put in the building every night. He also advised that four tables at the most would fit on the deck.

Council selected a table with attached benches that have backs on them. The color evergreen was selected.

Mayor Graham suggested that tables with movable chairs be placed on the lower area. Mayor Graham asked about trash cans for the area as well as about the smoking issue.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that trash cans have already been placed. In regards to smoking, Mrs. Corriveau explained that it depends on what park area we are discussing as some areas are very difficult to enforce no smoking regulations.

Mayor Graham asked if there was signage up for no smoking.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that she didn't know at this time. She stated that butt stops can be put up. However, we don't want to have to litter a park area with too much signage.

Mayor Graham responded that there should be a restrictive area.

Mrs. Corriveau also advised that staff talked about putting a couple more picnic tables and grills on the green space in the park area on Newell Street. That will be looked at in the spring.

Mayor Graham asked if the area had adequate street lighting.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that the National Grid poles are on street edges. However, she couldn't tell about the lighting, without going down there at night.

REPORTS

Conditions Assessment Report of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument

Council reviewed the report.

Council Member Butler asked who could do the work on this.

Mr. Mix stated that we can have whoever we want. However, if we receive a grant there would be some restrictions. He advised that there is one grant program available that would pay for this on a 50-50 basis. This program also allows a 75-25 split if the municipality qualifies for economically depressed status.

Council concurred to apply for the grant for next summer.

Mayor Graham asked about the yearly cleaning of the Flower statue and the expense of it.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the funding for the cleaning is still coming from the funds donated for the statue.

City Manager Update Report

Council reviewed the report.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Fountain Lights

Mayor Graham asked about the status of these being fixed.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that they will be fixed. The Electric Department has been busy with the traffic light at Summit Woods.

Public Square Event

Mayor Graham remarked that Saturday's event was well attended and was a job well done.

Council Member Burto also commented that the event was a great success and there was a good turnout.

Council Member Butler asked if the business owners had been made aware of the fact that the Square was going to be shut down. He asked how much interaction there had been with the businesses.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that this was a DBA event and DBA notified the business owners. All the City did was close the streets and pick up the trash.

S.U. Lacrosse Players

Mrs. Hoffman explained these players will be honored by the City at the WHS lacrosse game on October 2nd at 7 p.m. At that time, they will participate in the coin toss. They will be available to sign autographs. At the half-time ceremony, they will be presented with City coins.

Naming of Fire Truck

Council Member Burns remarked that she read on Newzjunky about the naming and dedication of our new fire truck in honor of Capt. Nolan. She remarked that she very pleased to see that Capt. Nolan was honored in this way. However, she asked if in the future the Council could be notified prior to the event so that they could also attend. She suggested that also in the future, this type of honor should be done by Council resolution, which could then be presented to the family.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that she learned about it the day after it happened.

Mayor Graham remarked that the naming of City things should be done by Council resolution. Council would have participated in the dedication had they known about it. He also remarked that recently a crossing guard was honored for her years of service and Council wasn't aware of

it until after the fact. He explained that Council members are encouraged to attend this type of event and people like to see their elected representatives present.

Dimmock Street

Council Member Butler asked about the status of this.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that she had spoken with Mr. Hayes and nothing is going to be done. She explained that a staff member did do UFPO markings on the street, but nothing is happening this year.

ADJOURNMENT

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 8:14 P.M.
BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER, SECONDED BY COUNCIL
MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk